The Highlander

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INSIDE: FEDERAL ELECTION Q&A PAGE 6 **FREE**

A hoppin' good time

Joan Barton and the Easter Bunny pose for a picture at the Maple Syrup Festival in Wilberfoce, April 19. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Demand spikes again at County food banks

By Mike Baker

Minden Community Food Centre (MCFC) manager Jean Munroe said things have never been busier at the Newcastle Street pantry, reporting an 18 per cent increase in demand through the first quarter of 2025, with Tina Jackson from Central Food Network reporting similar activity in Highlands East.

The figureheads from two of the County's three major food bank operations told *The Highlander*, in an April 18 interview, that there's been a "non-stop surge" in numbers stretching back to 2019.

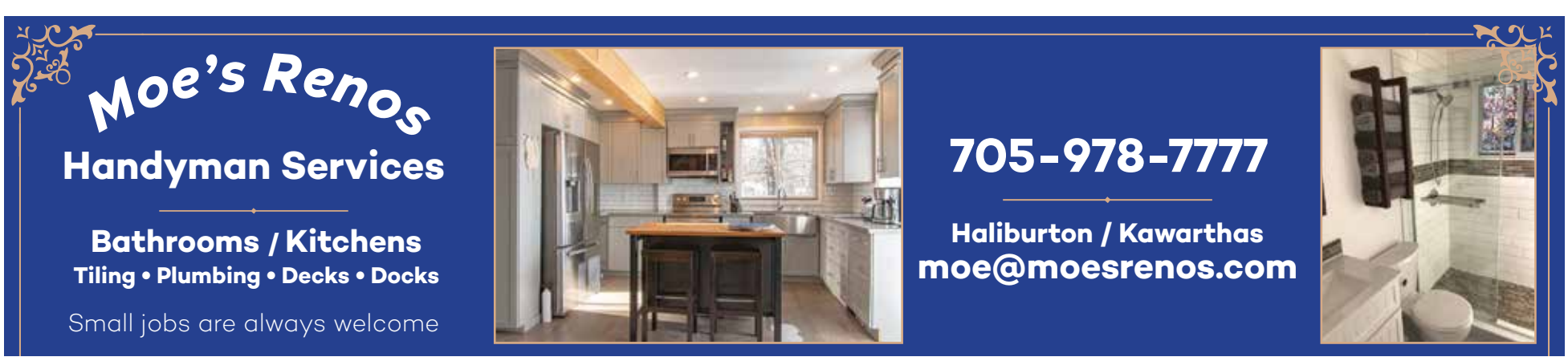
According to Munroe, that's putting considerable stress on the Minden food bank's staff, volunteers, and bottom line.

In 2024, the operation served 3,248 people, averaging 271 visits per month. Through January, February and March that total had reached 966 people – or 322 per month.

"It's been six years of increase after increase after increase. I haven't seen demand go down yet," said Munroe, who celebrated her third year with the operation in February. "The big issue I'm hearing from people is rent. People are struggling to make ends meet and keep a roof over their head. Unfortunately, food is one of the first things people opt to go without."

The recent ice storm had an impact, with some clients telling Munroe they lost all their frozen and refrigerated foods due to the prolonged power outage.

Continued **'Jump'** on page 2



Highlander news

Jump in the Lake foodbank fundraiser set for May 17

Continued from page 1

After seeing just over 3,000 visits in 2023 – the first time the Minden hub crossed that annual threshold, Munroe said she's preparing to hit another new milestone this year. With economic uncertainty stemming from the Canada-U.S. trade war, she feels things may get worse for those struggling before it gets better.

So, she and the MCFC board have decided to pivot. Beginning in mid-March, staff started sending clients home with three weeks' worth of food, rather than the usual four, allowing the needy to visit more frequently.

It's the second major transition in the past eight months, after the food bank, last summer, increased the amount of food people get each visit.

"We're seeing the crunch everywhere – food is flying off our shelves faster than ever before. Trying to keep up with that is bringing its own challenges right now," Munroe said, noting when she started the operation spent about $3,500 a month on food. Now, its bill is more than double that.

As a result, Munroe said the food bank is heavily reliant on community donations. More bins were set up across Minden last fall, which has helped keep non-perishables stocked – with 8,710 pounds collected so far this year.

Proteins and produce are more limited, though Monroe said some businesses, like Coneybeare's Butcher Shop, have established programs where people can purchase things at cost, which is then donated.

"We're getting lots of ground beef, which has been amazing," Munroe said.

She's also looking forward to the community garden at the fairgrounds reopening, which also helps.

Surging demand

Last year, CFN saw 4,128 visits to its food banks in Cardiff and Wilberforce, averaging 343 stops per month. Those numbers have increased slightly in early 2025, with CFN seeing 336 visits in January and 361 in February.

Compared to pre-pandemic levels, Jackson estimates the operation is serving an additional 57 people – or 100 extra monthly visits. The Wilberforce food bank assisted 25 more households this January compared to last, with an additional 19 in February. In Cardiff, five new households were welcomed in January and seven in February.

CFN also distributed over 900 frozen meals to people in January and February through its Community Cooks program.

"Poverty in Canada is spiraling out of control. In the last five years, visits to Canadian food banks have almost doubled," Jackson said.

In 2023, CFN was able to buy a cargo van, which Jackson said has allowed the local food banks to access reserves from bigger facilities in Belleville, Peterborough, and Lindsay. Last year, that brought 235,299 pounds of food valued at approximately $750,000 to the County.

That's brought the facility's monthly food spend way down, with Jackson saying CFN spent $2,200 in January. Before, she said they would have spent "considerably more."

While she didn't have numbers, Judy MacDuff, who runs the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton, said demand has been "a lot higher" through the first quarter of the year. She registered four new clients in a single day April 17.

In 2024, the site registered 2,213 visits, assisting 2,726 adults and 1,109 children, which MacDuff said was up from 2023.

"We need to see food prices come down and incomes go up… if it wasn't for the Lily Ann, we wouldn't be able to operate [at current levels]. It pays for our rent, heat, hydro and other things we need," MacDuff said. "Donations [to the food bank] go directly to purchase food."

Jump in

MCFC and CFN are partnering again this year for Jump in the Lake, scheduled for May 17. The annual event challenges people to get pledges before jumping in a local waterbody on the day.

It raised $11,500 last year, with Jackson hoping to eclipse that total this time around. As of press time, MCFC has 12 people registered, raising $2,000, with CFN at nine participants and $1,950 raised.

This will be the first time Jump in the Lake doesn't run alongside the same-named Coboconk initiative, which happens May 3. Munroe said this was done to try and encourage more cottagers to get involved. There will also be prizes for top individual fundraisers, Jackson noted.

Munroe said she'll be taking a dip in the Gull River this year, with Jackson diving into Halls Lake.

"We want this to be fun – something people can have a little competition with. Our organizations are facing lots of challenges and struggles right now. So get together, talk to your neighbours, form a team and help make a positive impact in our community," Jackson said.

Jean Munroe and Tina Jackson, the heads of food banks serving Minden and Highlands East, say demand is spiking again in 2025. *File*.

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Carter and Fearrey to get strong mayor powers

By Lisa Gervais

They will soon have strong mayor powers, but Dysart et al's Murray Fearrey and Minden Hills' Bob Carter are still figuring out what that means for them and their townships.

On April 9, Ontario proposed to expand strong mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities effective May 1.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing said the expansion "reflects Ontario's commitment to streamline local governance and help ensure municipalities have the tools they need to reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure development."

The powers will allow heads of councils of six members or more "to support shared provincial-municipal priorities, such as encouraging the approval of new housing and constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including roads and transit," the ministry said.

Dysart et al and Minden Hills have seven councillors, while Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East five.

Rob Flack, minister of municipal affairs and housing, said by extending strong mayor powers to these additional municipalities, "we are providing mayors every tool at our disposal to empower them to get homes and infrastructure built faster. Mayors know their municipalities best, and we support them in taking bold actions for their communities."

Ontario's strong mayor powers, initially introduced for Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, have been gradually rolled out across the province. There are 47 municipalities in Ontario with these enhanced powers, which the province says has helped to cut red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities in their communities.

"These enhanced powers come with increased accountability for heads of council and maintain essential checks and balances through the oversight of councillors," the ministry said.

Fearrey said he's just learning what it all means but, "it's not going to change the way I operate in terms of being involved with staff hiring, and things like that. I've always been involved. I think it's important that it be a team effort."

He believes, "it's going to help us on some of the planning issues; to free things up and make it a little bit easier to get housing started because we need to do that desperately. It should help us leverage provincial funding for some of these projects because it's all about getting some housing built, getting some rental units out there. If we have a proposal, I think it'll go a long way to disposition now. I think it's going to help."

Fearrey said one reservation he has is, "when you make one move, are you going to make that move all the time? That's the dangerous part of shifting away from policy."

Carter said the news caught Minden Hills by surprise, finding out when the minister made the announcement last week. They've only briefly looked at the implications.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

He wants more clarity on the fact Minden Hills, and Dysart, work with the County of Haliburton. "We have Dysart and Minden, who have these powers, but the County does not and our plans are tied into the County. We need to be able to clarify and figure that out."

He sees a benefit in things such as being able to move official plans ahead faster.

"The primary thing is … hopefully good news that we can use the power to help the community."

Strong mayor powers and duties include:

- Choosing to appoint the municipality's CAO.
- Hiring certain municipal department heads and establishing and re-organizing departments.
- Creating committees of council, assigning their functions and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council.
- Proposing the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate head of council veto and council override process.
- Proposing certain municipal bylaws if the mayor thinks the proposed bylaw could potentially advance a provincial priority. Council can pass these bylaws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour.
- Vetoing certain bylaws if the head of council thinks all or part of the bylaw could potentially interfere with a provincial priority.
- Bringing forward matters for council consideration if the head of council thinks considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority.

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Conn wants more supports for County's small businesses

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce executive director Amanda Conn said it's been a difficult few weeks for County-based businesses adapting to "seemingly ever-changing, on-again, off-again" tariffs proposed by the U.S. government.

After initially announcing plans to impose 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports effective Feb. 4, president Donald Trump delayed implementing measures until March 4. Since then, a series of retaliatory strikes from the federal and Ontario governments has resulted in more threats, though on April 11, Trump declared a 90-day pause on new tariff increases for most countries, including Canada.

The initial 25 per cent levy remains on imports, including non-United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) compliant goods and 10 per cent on energy and potash.

Conn said some County businesses are starting to feel the pinch.

"A few are definitely seeing some significant cost increases – those who rely on getting their raw materials from the U.S. or who have to ship things. We're helping where we can, but I would say the nervousness many have been feeling is still there and it's starting to worsen because we're seeing some of the things we were concerned about coming true.

"The uncertainty and not knowing is probably the most frustrating thing, because it's leaving people in limbo. For a good run there, we were seeing things change on a daily basis. New tariffs being added, then taken off. It's created a sense of chaos and confusion. Businesses are finding it very difficult to plan because they never know what's coming next, if they're going to get hit or not," Conn said.

With the Ontario Legislature getting back underway April 15, Conn said there's some encouraging news coming out of Queen's Park. Premier Doug Ford announced an $11 billion support fund for businesses, with $9 billion in deferrals for things like the employer health tax and insurance premium tax. He said that will be in place retroactively from April 1 to Oct. 1.

There's also a $2 billion rebate the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) will issue to "safe employers."

Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce president Joe Cox said many businesses have been impacted by the Canada-U.S. trade war. *Submitted.*

Conn said full details have yet to emerge on how that relief will be rolled out. She's unsure, too, how much it will help small businesses.

"I think there's some employers in our County that will benefit, but you have to have a pretty substantial payroll. I'd like to see more about the supports for smaller businesses," she said.

Chamber president Joe Cox also felt the announced measures would have "little to no impact" on those struggling in Haliburton County.

Following last week's throne speech, there's an expectation the new government's first bill will focus on interprovincial trade, breaking down internal barriers to bolster Ontario's economy, as well as diversifying trade partnerships with other countries.

MPP Laurie Scott told *The Highlander*, "these measures will help us build a more competitive and resilient economy, ensuring that businesses are better equipped to thrive in the global market."

Cox, controller at Francis Thomas Contracting in Algonquin Highlands, felt that would be a positive move.

"This could be an opportunity for local businesses to source alternative solutions without having to pay hefty import fees. Although, this will not have a considerable impact on our operations [at Francis Thomas], I can see this being beneficial to a number of organizations," Cox said.

Focus on tourism

Conn said one benefit to the Canada-U.S. trade war is an expected bump in local tourism. She said locals should brace themselves for a summer like those seen in 2021 and 2022, when the Canadian border was closed for travel.

"The Ontario chamber network is doing a lot of advocacy around staycations – we did that a few years ago and it was a good boost for Haliburton County. Many businesses are driven by tourism here, so hopefully that's something that will help," Conn said.

Angelica Ingram, the County's manager of tourism, noted many County-based tourism operators reported a strong winter and are optimistic for a busy summer. She believes the Highlands now one of the premiere four-season destinations for visitors from across the world – especially the U.S.

A recent Destination Ontario poll revealed more than half of U.S.-based respondents are likely to take a trip north of the border this year, Ingram said.

"Americans still feel that Canada is a welcoming destination. That is positive news, and we hope that translates to continued tourism from the U.S.," Ingram said.

Tariffs timeline

Jan. 20: Trump sworn in, announces plans for 25 per cent tariff on Canada

Feb. 1: Trump announces 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports, effective Feb. 4

Feb. 3: Trump agrees to a 30-day delay for tariffs on Canada

Feb. 10: Trump removes 2018 steel exemptions, raising tariffs to 25 per cent on all steel imports. Aluminum tariffs increased from 10 to 25 per cent, effective March 12.

March 4: Trump enforces 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports, though only 10 per cent on energy. Canada responds with $100 billion in retaliatory measures

March 5: Trump agrees a one-month pause on tariffs for auto imports from Canada

March 12: Canada imposes $29.8 billion retaliatory tariffs on U.S.

March 26: U.S. announces a 25 per cent tariff on all imported vehicles, including those made in Canada, effective April 3.

April 2: Canada implements additional $95 billion in tariffs on U.S. goods

April 3: Canada announced 25 per cent retaliatory tariffs on all non-CUSMA vehicles and non-Canadian auto parts, but only those imported from the U.S.

April 9: The U.S. imposes reciprocal 10 per cent tariff on Canadian imports, a 25 per cent tariff on non-USMCA goods, and 10 per cent on energy and potash. Canada retaliates with additional $125 billion in tariffs on U.S. imports.

April 11: Trump announces 90-day pause on new tariff increases for most countries, but existing tariffs on Canadian imports remain.

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AH NEWS

Log chute to go

Algonquin Highlands council has initiated the process to remove the "historic" Hawk Lake Log Chute, though officials hope it will be rebuilt in the future.

At an April 17 meeting, Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation and trails manager, said the structure is old and needs fixing.

Located on Crown land off Big Hawk Lake Road, the structure was initially built in 1861 and was used regularly by companies that logged the lands around Hawk, Kennisis, Trout, Crab, Cat and Paint lakes until the 1930s. The chute was rebuilt in 1947/48 and underwent extensive repairs in the mid 1970s. It was again repurposed in the late 1990s, reopening in its current format in 2005.

It was badly damaged during flooding in 2017 and has needed work ever since.

"The log chute continues to deteriorate. This is making sure it doesn't deteriorate to a point where it becomes more cumbersome to remove in the future," he told council, recommending the township engage a consultant to determine next steps and costing. Tulloch Engineering, which works with the township already on municipal boat launches and facilities, and Hawk River Construction, the company that did the most recent rebuild, were both mentioned.

Card said it was important for the township to have a plan for the chute, with Parks Canada planning to replace the Big Hawk Lake Dam. There's no timeline for the project, though Card said it's not included in the federal authority's five-year outlook. He told council the dam's asset manager said, "it is reasonable to assume it will be in the next 15 years."

The site of the new dam is uncertain, Card added, noting it could be built in a different location, which would impact the design of any new log chute and access to the Kennisis trail.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said, given the chute's current condition, she is concerned about safety and potential liability, acknowledging the historic site is way past its peak.

"I can't see anybody with two eyes and clear vision deciding they're going to go down that now. I don't think you could do that now," Danielsen said. "It's just not the same when you look at it now. It's a damaged structure."

Card said people have never been permitted to navigate the chute.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux expressed her concern that if the chute is torn down too quickly, and it takes Parks Canada 10-years-plus to replace the dam, that it will never be replaced. CAO Angie Bird said if the chute were to break apart before it can be removed, there's a risk it could block water and cause flooding in the area.

Card said trail access is fine and will not be impacted by the removal. He noted the township is planning to replace some stairs along the path this summer.

There was talk of starting a new fundraising committee to pay for the future restoration of the chute, but Bird said that's not something the municipality can do, noting it would need to be community-led.

The Hawk Lake Log Chute will be removed with Parks Canada planning to upgrade the Big Hawk Lake Dam. *File.*

Airport camping

Pilots flying into Stanhope Municipal Airport for events, such as the upcoming fly-in May 24, will be able to apply for passes permitting underwing camping.

The airport's community advisory committee suggested this could encourage future participation as it gives people the chance to stay in the area without having to secure rental accommodation. Applications will be managed by municipal staff.

Public works director Adam Thorn clarified that pilots won't be able to sleep by their planes, with the permitted camping grounds located away from the runway behind the airport garage. He said this area is close to washrooms.

Danielsen felt this was a positive move.

"It allows people to come from further away and stay overnight," she said.

The mayor asked about the township seeking a food truck partner for the site, with Thorn saying a tender process closed April 15 with no bids. Thorn said it has been reposted.

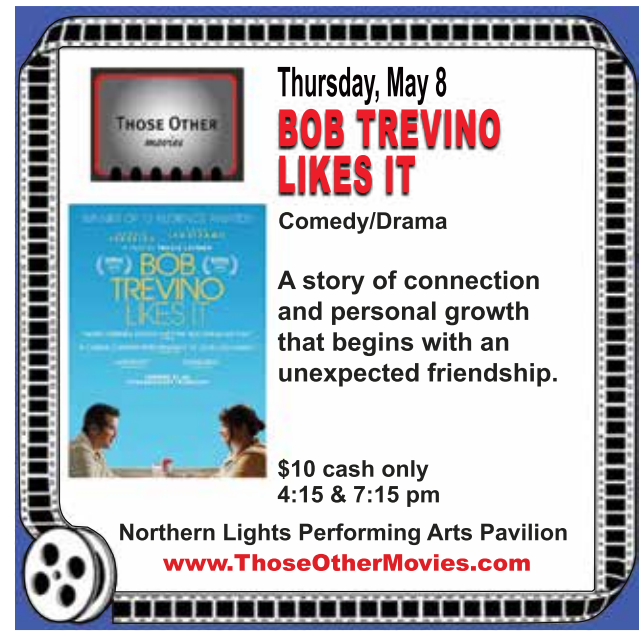
Squeeky clean

Council got a clean slate from integrity commissioner Tony Fleming last week, who said he did not receive any complaints from the public in 2024 relating to councillors' conduct.

Fleming is a lawyer with Cunningham Swan, a firm based in Kingston. As integrity commissioner, he is responsible for ensuring members of council follow the municipal code of conduct, displays ethical behaviour in their role, and following up on claims of violation of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

He's also available to provide council members with advice in potentially sticky situations. Fleming said he did assist one member this year, but did not disclose the identity of the person or situation.

Danielsen expressed some concern over the timing and general nature of some of Fleming's responses, asking clerk Dawn Newhook if there had been issues with any of the other County townships, which were also using Fleming. Newhook said none had been disclosed, though Minden Hills recently appointed Aird and Berlis LLP as its new integrity commissioner. Council received the report. *(Algonquin Highlands briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*



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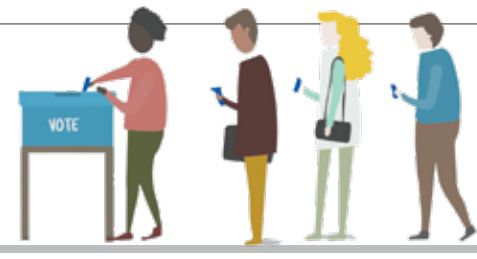

We invited all four confirmed candidates to participate in this Q&A, but Alyea Teel (NDP) and Michael Penman (Peoples) did not respond.

Jamie Schmale, Conservative candidate

Many people in Haliburton County continue to struggle with the rising cost of living. Tell me something tangible you/your party will do to help put more money in their pocket?

Our party understands that the past 10 years of the current Liberal government have been a disaster on the pocketbooks of the average family and working Canadian, especially in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes. The stories I hear at the doors of so many people not being able to afford groceries, rent, and other necessities are heart-breaking. We must act quickly to provide relief and kickstart our economy. Conservatives are proposing a plan where workers will keep more of their paycheques by cutting income taxes by 15 per cent so the average worker can keep an extra $900 each year, while dual-income families will keep $1,800 more. We will also make each dollar go further by axing the federal sales tax on new homes worth up to $1.3 million.

With the U.S. proving to be an unreliable trade partner, what plans does your party have to diversify Canada's economy, and what partnerships will you be targeting?

Canada will never become the 51st State and Canada can no longer rely on the United States to act in fair negotiations for free trade under the current president. Our party has been advocating for interprovincial free trade within our borders for over a decade, and we have the plan to make our economy self-sufficient, while trading our goods with allies overseas. Conservatives will bring premiers together to agree on removing as many trade barriers as possible, we will create an energy corridor that enables us to quickly build infrastructure for pipelines, LNG plants, and small modular reactors, and we will create a "Blue Seal" standard so that doctors and nurses can quickly be certified and work anywhere in the country through a streamlined process.

What's the most significant item in your party's platform and how do you feel it will impact people in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes?

As sad as it is to say, addiction and homelessness have spiked across our riding over the past 10 years, and residents in our communities have been expressing the need for a change in policy to solve these issues. The solution to these problems requires compassion. That's why Conservatives are proposing a plan that will fund 50,000 Canadians in treatment centres with a proven record of success of sending patients home, drug-free. We will require existing federal recovery sites to focus on connecting users with treatment and meet stricter regulatory standards through a results-based system. To fund this policy, our government will stop federal funding for opioids and sue the opioid manufacturers, along with their consulting companies, who created this crisis in the first place.

You're seeking a fourth term having spent 10 years representing the riding in Ottawa. In your opinion, what's your biggest accomplishment as a politician?

My office has a series of little victories each and every day because of the amazing team I have who work so hard and passionately for the people in our riding. Each year, we handle thousands of everyday issues that constituents need solving, whether it's involving the CRA, passports, OAS, or for any inquiry someone may have at a given moment, my team is always there to hear what you have to say. Carrying on from my Conservative predecessor, Barry Devolin, I have proudly kept the "Capital Experience" going, an annual opportunity for two students from the seven high schools in our riding to travel to Ottawa and learn about various career options our capital city has to offer after post-secondary. I will continue this tradition that creates opportunities for our youth.

If elected, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has said he'll make history and become the first prime minister to use the notwithstanding clause to override the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to impose consecutive life sentences on multiple murders. What are your thoughts on that?

We must advocate for the rights of victims of these heinous crimes. Sadly, the Supreme Court has made decisions that result in the sentences of some of Canada's most notorious killers being reduced, giving them a chance to walk free early. We see examples in cases involving Alexandre Bissonette, Justin Bourque, among many others. I stand with Pierre Poilievre, and I firmly support our Conservative plan to use our constitutional powers under the *Charter of Rights, and Freedoms* to bring justice back to our criminal justice system and end discounted sentencing for murderers. We will introduce life sentencing for criminals convicted of five or more counts of human trafficking, importing/exporting 10 or more illegal firearms, and fentanyl trafficking.

Nell Thomas, Liberal candidate

Many people in Haliburton County continue to struggle with the rising cost of living. Tell me something tangible you/your party will do to put more money in their pockets.

Building resiliency against trade wars/tariffs; Cutting taxes for middle-class families; Supporting seniors and retirees by reducing RRIF withdrawals 25 per cent per year; Increasing Guaranteed Income Supplement by 5 per cent**;** Eliminating GST for first-time buyers; Covering $8,000 in apprenticeship training**;** Expanding union programs to help workers enter high-paying trades**;** Cancelled carbon tax, saving 18 cents/litre at the pumps**;** Making permanent $10 a day childcare and National School Food Program**;** Expanding Canadian Dental Care Plan**;** Protecting pension and benefit transfers, employment insurance, Canada Child Benefits, GST/HST credits, disability savings grants**;** Funding home retrofits, lower utility bills for mid/low-income homeowners and renters (heat pumps, energy efficiency upgrades)**;** Funding home protection against floods, wildfires, extreme weather (funding roof repair/replacement, installing sump pumps, sealing foundation cracks).

With the US proving to be an unreliable trade partner, what plans does your party have to diversify Canada's economy, and what partnerships will you be targeting?

Prime Minister Carney's Liberals are: Rapidly mobilizing investments in electricity, transportation, building, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing; Expanding training in trades, healthcare, high tech; Building local businesses to be tariff-resilient using Canadian resources and markets; Fast-tracking made-in-Canada sustainable investment guidelines; Growing food locally; Keeping raw materials here instead of shipping out for manufacturing (make beer cans here from our aluminum, build greenhouses, furniture here, etc.); Eliminating interprovincial trade barriers; Establishing with European leaders a unified response to Trump's tariff threats (already done); Developing a national energy and electricity plan; Developing ports, supply chains and new trade corridors away from the US.

What's the most significant item in your party's platform and how do you feel it will impact people in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes?

Canadian self-sufficiency - energy, jobs, food, and housing. Stop importing lamb and beef. We want our eggs, chickens, beef, vegetables produced in Canada. All components of the food industry must be Canadian, from farm machinery to greenhouses to food processing and distribution.

If Ontario replaced the top ten imported fruits and vegetables by growing, processing, distributing them here, $250 million could be created for the economy, producing 3,400 jobs. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes has all the major farm equipment dealers, large commercial grain elevators, input suppliers, a livestock sale barn and large animal veterinary service to support over 1,100 crop and livestock farming operations.

We are a regional centre for Agri-business retail and support services. By adding new technologies, food production and processing will flourish here.

It's been 25 years since a Liberal was elected to represent this riding in Ottawa. Why should that change this month and why are you the best person for the job?

Canada is facing unprecedented threats from the U.S. Donald Trump wants our water and resources. We need a strong and unified country and a leader who knows how to manage trade wars.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has already met with European leaders to unify a stance against the Trump tariffs… he has already met with the premiers and established a commitment to unite in trade.

Carney is a globally recognized financial expert with a track record for managing crises. I am a crisis manager, too. I bring real world experience (farmer, business owner, physician) and a life of community service that directly applies to finding solutions to big and urgent problems. I am practical and disciplined. I advocate, most emphatically for the neediest.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has announced a new federal housing entity that he says will speed up affordable housing construction and provide financing to home builders. How much money has been committed through this? How will it help encourage more development in Haliburton County?

Carney plans four million homes by 2035, guaranteeing everyone has a safe and stable place to call home by: Unlocking private investment to build new homes for younger Canadians; Cutting developer fees 50 per cent, spurring $8 billion private investment annually; Eliminating GST for homes under $1 million; Removing tax and regulations for contractors/builders to get permits for new builds; Standardizing national building codes; Reintroducing home builders tax incentive Multi-Unit Rental Building (MURB); Accelerating construction training, covering $8,000 apprenticeships; Doubling non-profit and co-op permanent homes; Injecting $10 billion in middle/low-income rental homes; Investing $25 billion in sustainable technologies that speeds builds, lowering costs making it cheaper to own/maintain homes; Eliminating need to relicense when crossing provincial borders; Expanding Rapid Housing and Rental Protection Fund programs.

Highlander news

OPP NEWS

Shelter in place

The Haliburton Highlands OPP issued a shelter-in-place to some residents on Harburn Road April 6, though Cst. Rob Adams said the matter was swiftly resolved.

Police issued a notice at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, advising the public of an increased presence on the road between Pine Avenue and Illman Road. Nearby residents were advised to secure all windows and doors. Officers established roadblocks and carried out searches of the area.

The shelter-in-place was lifted by 11:17 p.m.

"Officers responded to a call for service involving a person in crisis. Based on the initial information received, appropriate resources were deployed to ensure the safety of the individual, the public, and responding officers.

"As the situation evolved and additional details became available, our response was scaled back to avoid escalating the circumstances further," Adams said.

He noted the recent ice storm and subsequent power outages had contributed to "increased anxiety and hardship in the community. In times of heightened stress, it is not uncommon for individuals to experience challenges with their mental wellbeing."

No charges were laid, with workers through the OPP and Canadian Mental Health Association's mobile crisis response team following up.

Officers will now wear body cameras while on shift. *File.*

Flood warning

Haliburton Highlands OPP are reminding residents and visitors to remain cautious as local water levels continue to rise.

"Past heavy rainfall and snowmelt are contributing to the possibility of flooding in various areas across the County," OPP said April 8.

They provided the following flood safety tips: avoid driving through flooded roads. Even shallow water can cause vehicles to become stranded or swept away.

Police also recommend staying away from fast moving water, including rivers, streams, and creeks, which may rise rapidly: be prepared for possible road closures and delays due to flooding conditions: keep an eye on local advisories for updates and evacuation notices; prepare for emergencies: Ensure you have an emergency kit with essential items such as flashlights, batteries, medications and important documents.

If you encounter an emergency, dial 911. For non-urgent concerns, contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

OPP expressed "a heartfelt thank you to all the utility workers, public works staff, emergency service personnel, community partners and every resident in Haliburton County who has reached out to lend a helping hand. Situations like this truly remind us of the strength and unity that make Haliburton County such a special place to call home."

Body cams

Haliburton Highlands OPP have rolled out new technology to their front-line officers.

After a successful use of In Car Cameras (ICC), which incorporated an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) system, OPP along with other detachments within Central Region, are implementing Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

"The implementation of BWCs provides one more tool for the OPP to enable the collection of better evidence, demonstrate greater accountability and transparency, and enhance public and officer safety in the communities we serve," OPP said in a media release.

The BWCs are worn on the front of the officer's vest and are clearly visible to anyone an officer may be interacting with. The BWC will display a visible ring of flashing green lights when in standby mode which will turn to flashing red lights once the BWC begins recording.

(OPP briefs compiled by Lisa Gervais)

hydro one

Thank you, Ontario.

The recent ice storm was a generational storm that devastated parts of central and eastern Ontario—uprooting trees, collapsing lines, and toppling thousands of poles.

For many, it wasn't just power that was lost. Homes were damaged, businesses were disrupted, and communities were left in the cold.

Hydro One crews did what we're trained to do. We responded around the clock alongside other Canadian utilities and contractors to restore power.

But what truly powered us through? You.

Neighbours helped neighbours. Restaurants fed crews. Hotels made space. You brought coffee, hot meals, cards and kind words when they mattered most.

Thank you for reminding us why we're proud to be an Ontario company.

Hydro One. Energizing life for a brighter future.

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Vote, spread awareness

By Mike Baker

Considering next week's federal election is being billed as the most significant in a generation, things have been eerily quiet as we approach voting day.

Especially so for people in Haliburton County. While Liberal candidate Nell Thomas hosted a community meet and greet earlier this month, we're not aware of Jamie Schmale (Conservative), Alyea Teel (NDP), or Michael Penman (People's Party) – the other three candidates – doing anything public in the Highlands, though we know Schmale is door-knocking.

There was no local debate for people to attend. Even the one that was organized, down in Lindsay, was in such a small venue that many – including yours truly – were turned away at the door.

We've tried to keep people in the loop – stories featuring tidbits from Schmale's and Thomas' platforms have been published, so too a story with comments from NDP head office. The local candidate, Teel, we were told would not be doing live interviews. Similarly, multiple efforts to engage Penman have been unsuccessful.

We had hoped to publish a comprehensive Q&A in today's issue featuring thoughts from all names on the ballot, like we did before the provincial vote in February. Unfortunately, only two of the four chose to participate – the Liberal and Conservative nominees.

Bluntly speaking, they're the only two with any realistic chance of winning come April 28. That's where things stand nationally, too. This election is a straight shot between Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre.

The two are on opposite ends of the political spectrum, and the difference in their leadership style is stark. Carney is touted as a global economist, who spent years advising previous UK and Canadian governments – including the recent Justin Trudeau regime. He's being positioned, by his supporters, as the person with the temperament, education, and background to best deal with U.S. president Donald Trump.

Poilievre is a veteran politician, first elected in 2004. He was a cabinet minister under Stephen Harper from 2013 to 2015, overseeing files for democratic reform, employment, and social development. His platform has largely centred on making life more affordable for Canadians, pledging to right-size government and cut taxes for the low and middle class.

The Bloc will likely perform well in Quebec, as they usually do, but there are fears the NDP and Greens, led by Jagmeet Singh and Elizabeth May/Jonathan Pedneault, will struggle for seats.

According to the CBC, a record 7.3 million Canadians voted during advanced polls April 18-21, up from 5.8 million in 2021. That's encouraging and seems to indicate interest in this election is strong, as it should be.

Still, there are many who won't vote. For some, it'll be because they don't know enough about the candidates. Others, a lack of knowledge about the process.

I was having Easter dinner with family over the weekend. My sister-in-law said she didn't know who to vote for between Carney and Poilievre. I told her she wouldn't be able to vote for either, that their name will only appear on the ballot in their home ridings of Nepean and Carleton, both in Ottawa.

After an impromptu 10-minute civics class booster, she now knows who is running and plans to vote. It got me thinking – if we all spent five or 10 minutes talking at the dinner table before Tuesday, about the election, how it works, and who the local candidates are, perhaps that will inspire even more people to cast their ballot. Especially the younger generation.

This is the most important election in a generation, after all.

GUEST COLUMN

Elbows up for Mother Earth

By Susan Hay

This Earth Day, 2025 has a discomfiting vibe for me. It feels like the rug has been pulled out from under the environmental and climate movement due to U.S. president Donald Trump's damaging policies and threats. Canadians are focused on tariffs and how they will impact our economy and our lives. And for good reason. We are worried about our country's sovereignty, our jobs, our retirement savings, and our future. And, of course, we are midway through an extremely important federal election.

We are being distracted from another significant problem; the threat multiplier that is climate change. Not the vague future threat that we thought it was, but what is already upon us. Environment Haliburton! has not been distracted.

Climate change and its deadly partner, biodiversity loss, must not be ignored. It seems obvious, but many don't understand that human beings are part of nature. Whatever happens to nature, happens to us.

Because of many decades of purposeful disinformation campaigns by the fossil fuel industry, climate change is misunderstood, denied or dismissed. An authoritarian regime like what the U.S. is in danger of becoming will only exacerbate these threats. Democracy, while not perfect, is very important in protecting social and environmental justice. We must do everything we can to preserve it.

The loss and damage from extreme weather events is costing taxpayers billions of dollars. And the longer we delay action, the more it will cost. Therefore, we must both mitigate (reduce emissions) and adapt to climate change. Every fraction of a degree matters.

Solutions exist. As individuals, we can reduce our use of fossil fuels by buying electric vehicles where possible, switching to cold climate heat pumps and flying less. Wasting less food, composting and eating less meat are also important. But the most impactful action is voting for the party most likely to act on the climate crisis. So be sure to exercise your privilege of voting.

There are other ways you can protect our beautiful County and the birds and other creatures which we are lucky to have here. One of those ways is by reducing the harmful impacts of artificial light. All creatures, even plants, respond to light and artificial light has adverse impacts on birds, turtles, other creatures and insects. If you're buying a new outdoor light fixture, consider one that directs light downwards. Turning off unnecessary lights and closing curtains or blinds will also help prevent bird collisions with windows especially during migration. Artificial light also is harmful to pollinators that are necessary for food production.

Environment Haliburton! is hosting a virtual event via zoom featuring two U-Links students who studied the impacts on insect populations by artificial light on Paudash Lake. This event is being held on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22 at 7 pm. Go to environmenthaliburton.org to register in advance.

This Earth Day, let's also have an 'elbows up' attitude to protection of our natural world, while we still have time.

Susan Hay is president of Environment Haliburton!

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Ontario's shame

I write as a concerned citizen and seasonal (5 months a year) resident and taxpayer.

It doesn't matter if you hate Toronto, this project of Doug Ford's will matter to your pocketbook.

Ford's government has turned Ontario Place, a publicly-owned beloved acreage on the shore of Lake Ontario, over to an Austrian spa company for 95 years. We the taxpayers are paying them $2.2 billion to build a luxury spa that nobody asked for and few of us will be able to afford, even if we wanted to.

And whether you care or not, you'll be paying about $400 a year for the privilege. You and your kids, and your grandkids. Not for entry to the spa, just for the privilege of giving them access to public lands. For perspective, Chicago in the U.S. recently completed an 18-mile pedestrian pathway for people to enjoy year-round. Wouldn't something like that be nice?

On April 14, *The New York Times* featured an article titled 'A Wellness Company with False Claims, Global Aims and a Toronto Island'. The story states, "a *Times* investigation shows Therme, a European firm, exaggerated its track record in securing a deal with Ontario, and government auditors found that the process had been unfair and opaque." We are now an international embarrassment.

And for home-grown coverage, check out www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-place-spa-deal-1.7511819

Check it out; ontarioplaceforall.com for much more information.

Laurie Scott, any comments?

Barbara Gordon
Salerno Lake

Sign wars

I resurrected a Conservative sign near my place on April 21, rather suspiciously lying down. I'm waiting to see if a Liberal sign I have resurrected a number of times will remain standing until April 28, election day.

Again I am suspicious of how often it has been downed. Finally, there is the large cloth banner on a deck of a house near the Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. It is a mindless visceral cry of rage, hardly a positive political comment. Has our democracy and the free exchange of political opinion descended to such a depth?

I remain committed to the idea that we need fair representation of all significant points of view following an election. That's proportional representation. When we have winners in an election, of course we have losers. That leads inexorably to the anger, I think is very evident.

Here's a small point. In a good proportional representation system you can have, in effect, two votes - one for the best local candidate and another for the political party that best embodies your point of view. And the best candidate may not be a member of the same party. That can moderate regionalism and save seats, among other benefits..

It's fairer for almost all voters. It remains to be seen how unfair the results of the election will be when this paper is published on May 1. Probably, again very distorted

Jim Milne,
Haliburton

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Sherry Mulholland caught these funny-looking birds enjoying a snack from feeders they leave on their deck.

'Ministry says no to land reserve' April 17.

I applaud the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust for doing all they can to mitigate the steep decline in the County's wetlands and species that are losing habitat at an alarming rate. The attempt to keep 2 per cent of Haliburton County's land as intact forest for residents and tourists to enjoy for generations was a worthy effort.

Citizens on both sides of the debate agree, nature in Haliburton County is worth protecting; I wish everyone could have had the chance to have productive dialogue with the HHLT and each other at a rescheduled Haliburton County council public meeting.

Nancy Vonk
Haliburton

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

A wild swimmer at heart

County resident Mary Ella Magill

By Susan Tromanhauser

Mary Ella Magill is a trailblazer. The soon to be 80-year-old is part of the latest trend known as 'wild swimming'. This fad is credited for boosting mental wellbeing, health, and enhancing circulation; all with a sense of adventure. Wild swimming is swimming in natural bodies of water such as lakes and rivers, rather than swimming pools.

Magill laughed when she first heard about 'wild swimming' because she has been doing it since she was three years old. Her first experience was jumping off the dock in what she recalls as a "sink or swim experience." Fortunately, she swam - and has been doing so ever since.

From the last day of school in June until Labour Day, Magill's family would go to her family camp on Ramsay Lake, near Creighton Mine in Sudbury. Her father purchased the camp in 1947 for $1,500 by providing a $10 deposit. Magill's fond memories include swimming, blueberry picking - and the hole in the floor. With no electricity, the hole in the dining room floorboards held a metal box with a drain pipe. Inside was placed a block of ice covered in saw dust to keep meats and milk cold. Water was retrieved with buckets in the lake and, of course, there was the obligatory outhouse. Eventually, electricity arrived with a pump where water would magically appear.

As an adult, Magill was still drawn to water, and through sailing met her husband. They spent many summers sailing Lake Ontario together, but Magill was still missing the lake. She convinced her husband to sell the boat and began a search for a cottage. The search began in the Kawarthas but Magill felt the area was too much like farmland. Magill needed granite – Canadian Shield. They discovered Haliburton and purchased a cottage with a magnificent view of Drag Lake.

In 1993, Magill participated for the first time in the annual Ced Hurd Swim, a mile swim event started in 1982 in memory of Hurd, a Drag Lake resident who encouraged swimming skills and water safety for youngsters on the lake. Magill has completed it every summer since, except last summer when a shoulder injury kept her on dry land.

Only the convenience of medical services keeps Magill in the city. Being at the cottage means being in nature, silence and seeing the moon on the lake. Magill also recognizes Haliburton's abundance of artists and writers and enjoys the farmers' market and Haliburton School of Art + Design. She expounds on the generosity of the community, always available to lend a hand or solve a problem. While mosquitos and black flies continue to annoy her husband, Magill credits her early years at the camp for being immune to them.

With her shoulder injury healing, Magill swims in the winter in a pool near her Toronto home, completing 72 lengths, the equivalent of a mile, once a week. Magill is counting the days until getting back to Drag Lake and swimming wild again.

Do you know an interesting human in Haliburton County? If so, reach out to Susan Tromonhauser at susan.tromanhauser@gmail.com

Highlander news

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

April 25 Taste of Italy in the Highlands - Workshop & Dinner - hosted by OG Cucina

April 25+26+27 Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors - Live theatre - Hosted at Northern Lights Arts Pavillion

April 26 Medeba's Not-So-Silent Auction! - Fundraiser event - Hosted at Camp Medeba

April 26 Soc Hop Dace - Hosted at the Wilberforce Legion

April 27 Wild Honey Hoedown - Johnny Burke Foundation Fundraiser - Live entertainment - Hosted at the Haliburton Legion

April 29 Ricotta & Parmigiana Gnocchi - Workshop - Hosted by OG Cucina

May 1 Watersheds Canada's National Conference - Hosted at The Pinestone Resort

May 1 Open house - Hosted at Gardens of Haliburton

May 3+4 Repair Cafe - Happening at Sirch Bistro & Bakery

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

David Barkley, project lead of the Coming Full Circle substance abuse and mental health support program, at the new drop-in location at 83 Maple Ave. in Haliburton. *Submitted.*

Supports Coming Full Circle in County

By Mike Baker

A new program designed to match County residents dealing with substance abuse issues and mental health challenges with people who have lived experience overcoming them now has a home base in Haliburton village.

Coming Full Circle is a two-year pilot that aims to change the narrative around supporting people in crisis, says David Barkley, project lead. He recently secured a space at 83 Maple Ave., Unit 7 of the Halco Plaza. The next step is hiring a team of seven peer support specialists who, he hopes, can get to work making a difference in the community.

He's expecting the program to fully launch in late May or early June.

"This is going to be a unique approach to supporting people – there will be one-on-one, drop-in, casual and insert-type programming. It's all about fostering connections and finding ways to communicate with people," Barkley said. "We want to improve the resources in this community and be seen as a place where anyone can come for support, instead of being just another name or group that people don't want to use."

It's a collaboration between Point in Time, Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR), and several organizations representing the Haliburton County Connections Committee. It was made possible by a $800,000 grant from Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program.

Barkley has 22 years of experience working in the field, most recently with the Lynx Early Psychosis Intervention Program. He said he's seen the peer support model "become a little more accepted" in recent years, believing it's the key to unlocking doors, and barriers, for people needing support.

Breaking it down more, he said the program isn't meant to attract professionals with fancy degrees or diplomas to serve in lead roles, opting instead for "real life" experience.

"We want a full complement of peers. We want people who are in different stages of their own recovery journey, because we want everyone to be able to learn from one another.

"Ultimately, we believe lived experience is lived expertise. If people have been there and it's true, exposure to substance use and addictions, it helps foster connections with people just starting out on their own healing journey. They didn't read it in a book, they didn't go to school to learn about it. It's genuine, firsthand knowledge. That's the kind of thing that helps break down barriers, that people can connect with," Barkley said.

All staff will be trained once hired and before meeting with would-be clients, on things like non-violent crisis intervention, verbal support, and communication techniques. Barkley said he's still looking for candidates – pay is above market rate, for 21 hours a week.

He expects the drop-in centre will be open up to three days a week, though said that may change as the program develops.

Asked if he had a sense for how prevalent the drug crisis is in Haliburton County, and what the program expects to do numbers wise, Barkley said he's less focused on statistics.

"We know it is an issue, but it's an issue everywhere. It's been expressed the County can really use some additional resources… it's something that's impacting a lot of people in the community," he said. "Our goal is to improve things. If that's one person at a time, that's OK with me. Now is the time, I think, to try some different things… because the usual ways and models haven't been working.

"We're wanting to see people who have maybe connected with supports before, but it didn't quite work for them. And it doesn't just have to be drugs and mental health – we're hoping people who have issues around food insecurity, housing and homelessness come to us as well so we can help them and maybe improve connections to other resources once people have developed a level of trust."

If they can get a foothold, Barkley believes Coming Full Circle can change the way other agencies work and operate, too.

"This peer support approach can be effective, but it isn't being utilized a whole lot. It's going to take unique, almost outside the box ways of thinking and connecting to make a difference. We'll be evaluating ourselves all the time to make sure we're hitting the right mark, and hope to share what's working for us with others," Barkley said.

For more information, or to apply, visit cmhahkpr.ca/careers.

Highlander arts

Student bringing comedy to life through opera

By Mike Baker

For as long as Highlands East teenager Veronica Beynon can remember she's always dreamed of writing and producing movies, TV shows and stage plays – now her fantasy is set to become reality thanks to Highlands Opera Studio (HoS).

The Hal High victory lapper was recently announced as one of five storytellers for the studio's upcoming *Let's Make an Opera* production. The year-long pilot project is being overseen by Valerie Kuinka, HoS lead, and three other mentors – Lauren Margison, Danika Loren, and Michael Murphy.

The goal is to create a professional play based on stories, historical happenings and life experiences in Haliburton County. Fellow County residents Marci Mandel, Meghan Mardus, Jack Simpson and Janet Trull will also have stories featured for the opera, which will premiere later this year.

Beynon's was one of the last of 14 submissions received, with the student telling *The Highlander* she quickly put a proposal together after learning about the project through Melissa Stephens, a retired teacher and conductor with Highlands Festival Singers.

"It was actually a week before the final due date – I went into researching some old newspaper clippings from a long time ago to find some fun historical facts I could try to build an opera around," Beynon said.

She read up on the County's rich history of logging and found accounts of land disputes between original settlers in Haliburton and those who arrived following the completion of the Victoria Railway in 1878.

After stumbling upon the works of Ontario author Larry D. Cotton, renowned for his *Whiskey and Wickedness* series that spans 30 books, she settled on a comedic scene involving two men arguing in a fictional County-based bar. Her story is a simple one, involving one other character, a bartender.

"One of the funny recurring themes through all my research was about these almost like duels going on in the bars. Because people were intoxicated, they were forced to take the bullets out of their guns before being served. So I thought it would be really fun to play with the idea of a shootout almost happening in a bar, only for all the suspense and build-up to lead to nothing," Beynon said, noting it will feature callbacks to key historical moments.

Veronica Beynon and Bill Gliddon are collaborating on a story for Highlands Opera Studio's upcoming *Let's Make an Opera* production, assisted by mentors Lauren Margison and Valerie Kuinka. *Submitted.*

She's collaborating on the piece with Bill Gliddon, a man almost 70 years her elder. An organist at St. George's Anglican Church for 63 years and retired music teacher, Gliddon said he jumped at the opportunity to assist Beynon by composing music for her story.

The pair met for the first time in late March to go over ideas. Gliddon said they connected instantly.

"I liked her story, I thought it was funny. Then I thought to myself how refreshing it would be working with someone so young, the intergenerational creativity we could each bring to the project," said Gliddon, who also submitted a story but wasn't selected.

Following that first meeting, he provided Beynon with seven musical numbers she could take away to style her words for. A week later, she sent back almost a complete libretto – essentially the manuscript for an opera. That inspired Gliddon, who spent much of April 11 perfecting his composition.

While far from finished, he's likened the piece to an old-school Gilbert and Sullivan production. That was a nice callback for the former Hal High music teacher and Glee club figurehead, who produced student-led plays from the Victorian-era duo annually through the 70s and 80s.

While Beynon will take a behind-the-scenes role during the final production, Gliddon admits he feels a calling to tickle the ivories. He'll also assist with final planning.

Next steps

Kuinka said the community is abuzz following the story announcement, with the next phase going to be finding performers. There are workshops scheduled May 16 and Aug. 9, though she encourages anyone interested in playing a role to reach out.

Originally, the opera was to feature three or four local stories, but Kuinka said the judges had a hard enough time whittling things down to five.

"We've really hit the ground running now – our selected writers have all been matched with mentors to assist. Some require help with the music, but others are already working themselves to figure out how to best bring their pieces to life," Kuinka said, noting Mandel and Mardus will also perform in their renditions.

"We have stories that are hilarious, stories that are deeply moving and are tear-jerkers, and stories of human growth, of experience overcoming hardship," she added.

Kuinka is hoping all stories will be wrapped by Aug. 9, giving performers at least three months to perfect their act.

The final performance will be held in November of December, likely at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

HoS is looking to fill a variety of behind-the-scenes roles, as well as on-stage, with anyone interested asked to contact Kuinka at valerie@highlandsoperastudio.com.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

• *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario) will be on display until June 28 in the Welch Room. The exhibit examines the residential school experience, most particularly in the two schools that were located in Kenora – Cecilia Jeffrey and St. Mary's.

• The UFO (Unfinished Objects) Craft Group will meet in the Welch Room on Friday, April 25th from 1:00-3:00. All are welcome.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

April 24 – Regular Council Meeting
May 8 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

DROP-IN SCHEDULE

The new spring drop-in schedule is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Come out and enjoy some of the program options we have available.

SCOTCH LINE LANDFILL – BRUSH DISPOSAL FEES TEMPORARILY WAIVED

To support Minden Hills residents in their cleanup efforts following the recent ice storm, brush disposal fees are being waived until further notice.
During this time, brush will be accepted only at the Scotch Line Landfill, as it is best equipped to handle large volumes. Please ensure you bring your waste disposal card when visiting the site. Advance notice will be provided to residents prior to the reinstatement of disposal fees.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917
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Junior highlanders

Left: Grade 9 students Gavin Trumble and Emersyn MacDonald make the most of job fair day at Hal High April 16 by competing in a drill race at the G.J. Burtch table. Centre: Haliburton EMS paramedics Jordi Collins and Krystin Hope check the vitals of Grade 10 student Addy English. Right: Aggie Tose, executive officer at the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association, chats with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staffers Klara Munnik, Hayden Steinman and Emily Klose. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Job fair 'connects youth with County jobs'

By Mike Baker

For Aggie Tose, executive officer with the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association (HCHBA), job fair day at Hal High is one of her busiest and most rewarding of the year.

With 33 businesses packed inside the school gymnasium April 16, and hundreds of students coming-and-going throughout the day, Tose believes the annual event is one of the most important recurring functions in the County.

A joint HHSS-HCHBA staple for several years, it informs future workers about the opportunities that exist in Haliburton County, connecting them with businesses early.

"This is about showcasing to students all the amazing careers that are available across the Highlands. They can go away to school, but we want to instill in them that they can come back home and live very well here. There are lots of positions in-demand.

"We had a wide variety of businesses involved this year from all sectors – construction, service, healthcare, different government departments," Tose said.

Among the busiest vendors was the Haliburton Highlands Health Services table, manned by HR director Peter Kronenberg. He said the organization, which operates the Haliburton hospital, Minden Health Hub, and Hyland Crest and Highland Wood long-term care homes, is always hiring.

Kronenberg said job fairs like this help HHHS connect with youth interested in a career in healthcare.

"We want to let young people know what options are out there within their community. Students do not have to leave their community to find good jobs. There's so many choices and different things available at HHHS.

"I think most people know about the nursing jobs, but we also have vacancies in diagnostic imaging, admin, and other more focused areas. People might not know these jobs exist unless they have a friend or relative who works in the system, so building awareness at events like this is important," Kronenberg said.

Haliburton County EMS paramedics Jordi Collins and Krystin Hope spent all day teaching students about vital sign monitoring and how to perform CPR.

"Lots of the kids said they'd done a course, so we were able to use our machines to see whether their depth was good or not. It's always fun to show them proper techniques – we have to do it for two minutes at a time before we check on patients, they all said 'oh my god, two minutes! That's a long time'. They're very surprised by what it actually looks like," Hope said.

A paramedic with the local service for two years, Hope said her position comes with lots of job security – something she said the students were all asking about.

Cole Stiles is a general contractor with G.J. Burtch Construction. He said the company was hiring for apprentices – something they've done for as long as Chris Simpson, woodwork and auto shop teacher at Hal High, can remember.

Simpson said interest in Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program places was at an all-time high this year.

"We've got three or four applying for carpentry, three for electrical, a couple for automotive, one for welding… that will put them in a co-op that goes towards their high school diploma, but also level one training for whatever their chosen field is. Then they can go to college, a lot of them with an employment opportunity waiting for them when they're done.

"Days like this open so many doors for these kids. Most of them have no idea what's out there, or how much money they could be making," Simpson said.

Tose said there's major demand for plumbers, electricians, drywallers and painters. Despite a slower year for construction in 2024 and economic uncertainty due to the Canada-U.S. trade war, Tose expects there to be lots of activity this summer.

"New builds are slower, but renovations are booming. People are being a little more cautious… some businesses are pivoting, but there is hiring happening. We're preparing for a busy summer."

She said HCHBA is available to assist any student looking for more information on specific positions, how to access training, and get lined up for work. "Our youth don't need to go into debt to find good, stable, well-paying work in Haliburton," Tose said.

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For more information on the HHOA visit **www.hhoa.on.ca**

VOLUNTEERS:
The HHOA is always looking for new volunteers to help at the hatchery and the stocking of our lakes. In addition, we need people with various skill sets to help us with all the activities within the HHOA and the hatchery and continue its valuable contributions to the Haliburton Highlands outdoors community. Some of the skills needed but are not limited to the following:
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TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

Highlander volunteer

Volunteer firefighters, heroes among us

By Kimberly Strong-Knight

Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes, and vocations. What they all have in common is the desire to help their communities.

Some collect food and distribute it to those in need, others organize charitable events to raise money for community organizations, while a select few put their lives on the line as volunteer firefighters.

In Canada, volunteers make up approximately 71 per cent of firefighters. According to the Canadian Fire Service in Ontario, over 94 per cent of communities rely on volunteer firefighters for at least part of their emergency response. Of these, 75 per cent are in departments that serve communities with populations of less than 25,000—such as Haliburton County.

In the Highlands, there are four fire departments: Algonquin Highlands, commanded by acting chief Chris Shelly, Minden Hills by chief Don Kruger, Dysart et al by chief Dan Chumbley, and Highlands East by chief Chris Baughman.

Kruger, from the Minden Hills fire hall, explains that they currently have 18 firefighters and four captains. Meanwhile, deputy chief Stacey Parish, from the Dysart et al fire hall, reports that although there is room for 32 volunteer firefighters, they presently have 28.

"We have absolutely fantastic volunteers," Parish said.

Kenny Briggs and Jarrod Spooner are volunteer firefighters at the Dysart et al fire hall. Both maintain full-time day jobs—Briggs works at Dimensions Algonquin Highlands, and Spooner runs his own property maintenance company—but they never hesitate to answer the call.

"I work full-time, but when the pager goes off, I usually answer the call," said Briggs. "It is all about the initial effort and dedication."

Spooner echoed that sentiment, adding that the passion for helping others and the camaraderie among firefighters are key factors in the enjoyment and satisfaction of the work.

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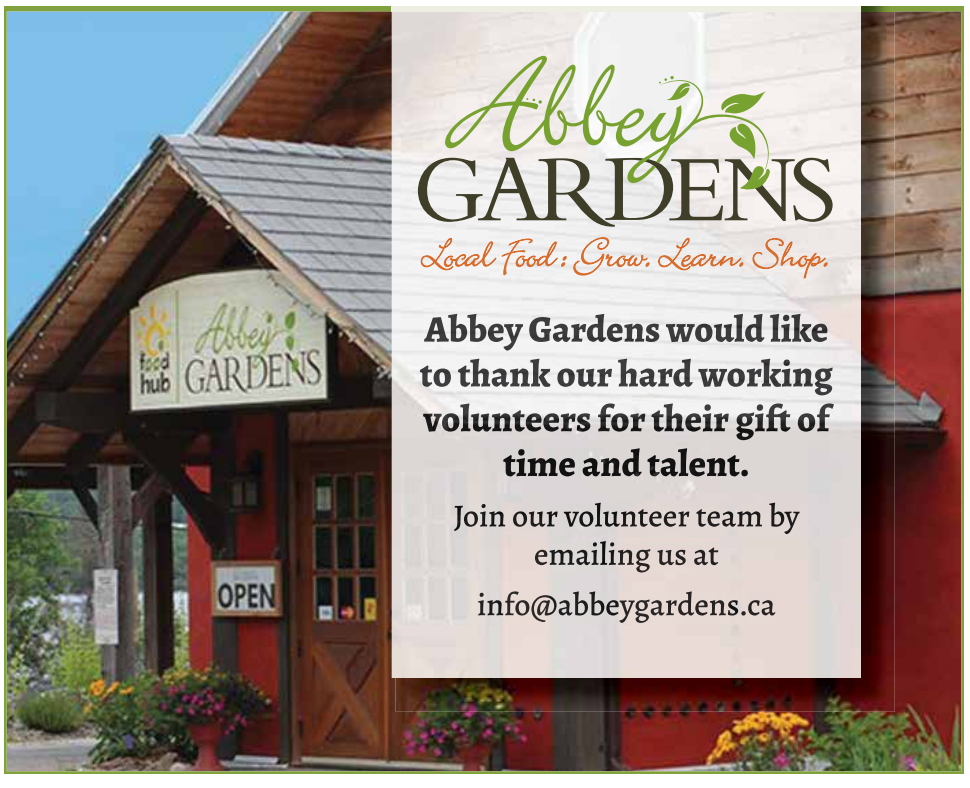
Dysart et al Fire Department deputy chief Stacey Parish, and volunteers Jarrod Spooner and Kenny Briggs at the Haliburton village station. *Photo by Kimberly Strong-Knight.*



Highlander volunteer

Parish: job hard but 'so worth it'

Continued from previous page

Both Briggs and Spooner have logged over 100 hours already this year.

Pat Kitcheman, a volunteer from the Minden Hills fire hall, has responded to more than 44 calls in the first quarter of this year. "Being my own boss, I have the freedom to answer the calls when they come in," Kitcheman said.

While some volunteer firefighters mentioned that joining had been something they always wanted to do, Kitcheman joined for a different reason.

"I witnessed a fire down my road and was intrigued by watching the responders—I thought, that's something I could do." He added that, although he initially knew little about firefighting, he adopted the "that looks interesting, let's give it a try" rule of thumb. "I have completed all of the training and continue to obtain as many additional certifications as I can."

> *We are like a family that always has each others backs*
>
> ***Jenn McGovern***

Shelly explained that the hiring process and provincially-mandated certification program is quite in-depth.

"The standard requirements we follow come from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and from February to June we run a County-wide training program that brings recruits from across Haliburton County together," Shelly said.

Jenn McGovern, a volunteer from the Minden Hills department and the first female captain Minden Hills has ever had, noted that the recruitment school fosters relationships with other departments in the community.

"We are like a family that always has each other's backs. We get to observe the new recruits' skills, which is really helpful when we respond to mutual calls."

Despite having a full-time job as a correctional officer and teaching at both the recruitment school and sometimes even at the high school, McGovern still likes to get her hands on the hose.

"Typically, I attend a callout in a supervisory position, and as a captain it is sometimes hard to step back and let my crew do their job because I still like to get my hands dirty," she said.

Haliburton County is one of many regions that rely on the dedication and continuous training of volunteer firefighters to keep everyone safe. When a call goes out, it is answered by those who have committed themselves to helping others—on what can sometimes be the worst day of their lives.

Although the work can be challenging, Dysart's Parish believes it's "so worth it."

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Dysart et al
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Minden Hills
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On behalf of Haliburton Br. 129 executive

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Highlander events

Easter at the Gardens

The 2025 Easter weekend at Abbey Gardens didn't disappoint April 19, with hundreds on-hand making memories at the annual egg-stravaganza. There was a scavenger hunt, egg and cookie decorating, meet and greet with the 'Paddock Pals' Maple, Sammy and Flapjack, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Abbey Gardens executive director Angela Kruger said about 1,000 attended Saturday's event.

Top Left: Time for some decorating by the uncovered event centre. Bottom Left: Easter egg hunters sprawl out across the Chickadee Trail at Abbey Gardens to fill up their baskets. Centre: The Pritchard family – mom Amanda, children Rowan and Hazel, and dad Tom meet Flapjack the Mini Appaloosa horse.Top Right: Irene Heaven smiles for a shot alongside the Easter Bunny. Bottom Right: Maurice, Asha and Alice Abbey had a great time celebrating Easter outdoors. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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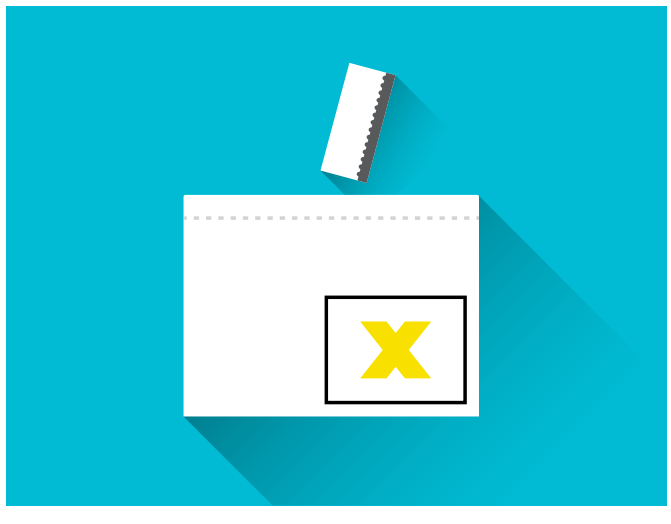

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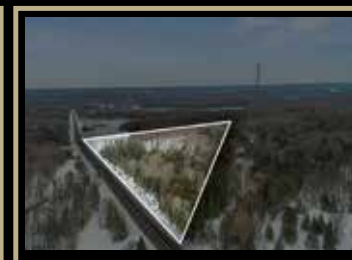

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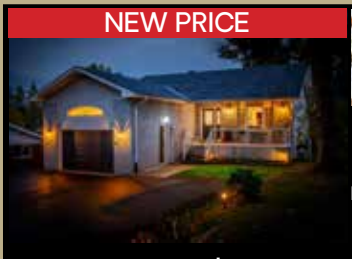

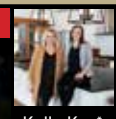

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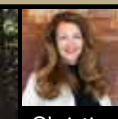

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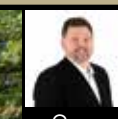

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Highlander events

Liquid gold

Wilberforce was a hive of activity this past weekend as the community came together for the 44th annual Maple Syrup Festival. Organized by the Wilberforce FUNraisers group, the event was held at Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre and featured a pancake breakfast, cooked and served by volunteer firefighters, an arts and crafts vendor show, as well as an appearance from the Easter Bunny. One of the organizers, Barb Schofield, said the event attracted about 400 people.

Second Row, Left: Diane Meharrie stands happily in front of her booth of homemade earrings and jewellery. Second Row, Righ: Rich 'Mr. Pickrel' Nodal gets a picture taken with the Hall family, from left, Barrington, Marisol and Tianna. Third Row, Left: Brothers Shawn and Josh Collins show off their baked goodies. Third Row, Right: Nix Suleman catches the Easter Bunny right as he arrives. Fourth Row, Left: Suleman gives the thumbs up for his pancakes. Fourth Row, Right: Anne Superstar making sure everyone has what they need. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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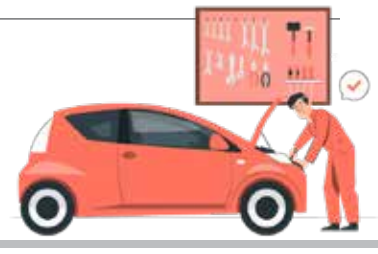


Instructor offers insight for spring driving

By Lisa Gervais

Richard van Nood knows a thing or two about driving. He opened Driver's Edge Driver Training in Haliburton County in 1990 and has been teaching the skill for 35 years.

He is asked about driving in spring.

"In the spring, in the fall as well, is probably the trickier time," he says. In winter, he said drivers know what to expect, and adjust accordingly.

"But when you are in the spring or the fall, you get those changing temperatures. I always say you have to look at the roads. If they're nice and white, especially in the spring, that's nice dry salt on the roads. If they look dark, and if the temperatures are hovering around freezing going into that shaded area; everybody goes 'oh, black ice.' It's invisible but it's not unpredictable."

He said with every vehicle now having a thermometer, drivers should be aware of temperatures.

"As soon as it comes close to the freezing temperatures, it warns you the roads might be slippery. There's not much more to adjusting your driving."

However, he advises people to clean their vehicles well in spring. "Especially when you get loads of salt that's accumulated. I'll spend more time in the spring washing the underside of my car, than the top side." Otherwise, he said "everything just rusts faster."

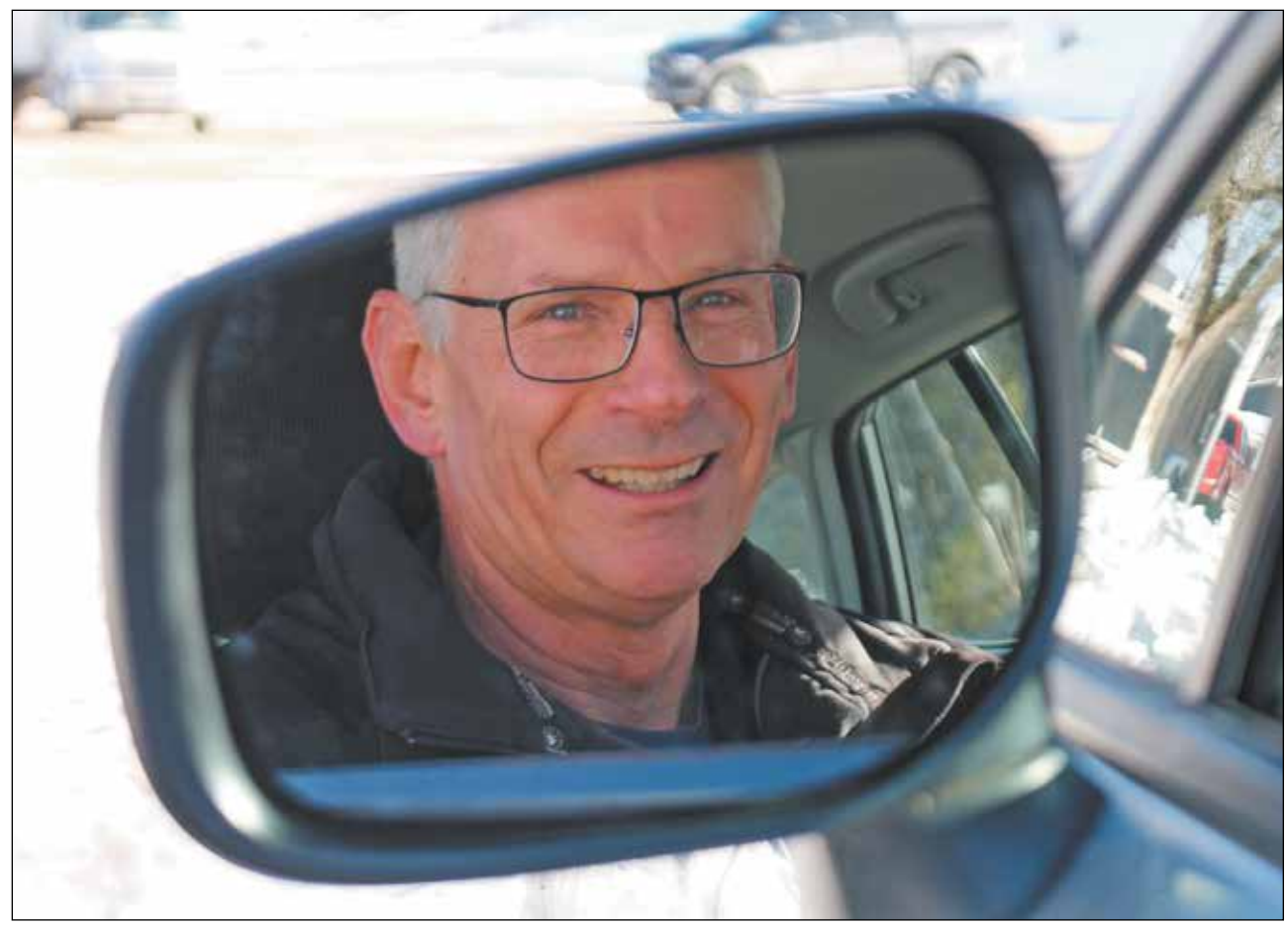
He also recommends getting the vehicle oil sprayed before winter.

The long-time driving instructor added people often ask him why there seems to be so many burned out headlights in winter and spring.

"It's just that time of year. If lightbulbs are on their last legs, turning them on when it's -15 and all that sudden heat (burns them out)."

Asked about driving tips, he offers some for younger drivers in particular.

"Don't get too quick and carefree. I see it in the spring around the high school. As soon as the weather starts getting nice, they start going nuts. They come out of that parking lot, and they're leaving black streaks down the road."



Driving instructor Richard Van Nood gives some spring tips for the road. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*

Other spring car care tips:

- **Wash your car:** Spring is a great time to wash away winter grime, road salt, and debris that can cause corrosion.
- **Inspect wiper blades:** Check for wear and tear, and replace them if they're streaking or juddering.
- **Check tire pressure and rotate tires:** Ensure tires are properly inflated and consider rotating them to even out wear.
- **Check lights:** Ensure all headlights, brake lights, and turn signals are functioning correctly.
- **Check fluids:** Top off engine coolant, brake fluid, power steering fluid, transmission fluid, and windshield washer fluid.
- **Oil change:** Change your oil and filter, especially if you've been driving through winter conditions.
- **Inspect belts and hoses:** Check for cracks, leaks, or damage to belts and hoses.
- **Check battery:** Test your battery's condition and ensure terminals are clean and tight.
- **Inspect brakes:** Listen for any grinding, squealing, or clanking noises, and have your brakes inspected if necessary.
- **Check air filters:** Replace the engine air filter and cabin air filter if they are dirty or old.
- **Spring clean the interior:** Vacuum carpets, clean seats, wipe down the dashboard and console, and clean the windows.
- **Check A/C:** Before the weather gets too hot, make sure your air conditioning system is working properly.

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Highlander sports

Minden youth curlers rock another season

The Minden youth curling program enjoyed 16 weeks of learning to curl, with skills, drills and games. Spokesperson Lynda Litwin said, “we are growing our club and had 23 youth interested in learning how to play the game.” She thanked coaches Dave McKay and Eric Casper for their guidance and patience; parent volunteers that walked the youth from Archie Stouffer Elementary School, and helped in the kitchen and lounge; parents who sold chocolate bars to raise funds to keep the program affordable; and on-ice volunteers who provided encouragement and guidance. “It is a wonderful experience to watch the children interact with each other, encourage each other, and blossom as they learn the sport of curling,” Litwin said. The bronze medal winners were: James Cox, Braylen Ansley, Lennon Tiffin and Caleb McElwain. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Above Left: The gold medal winners were: Kevin Jones, Ella Dukat, Ari Hirstwood, and Emery Horsely (absent). Above Right: The silver medal winners were: Mackay Windover, Thomas Austin-Ward, Kinsley Porzuczek and Ewelina Porzuczek. *Photos submitted.*

The Huskies

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Honouring record-breakers

The 2024-25 season was one to remember for the Haliburton County Huskies, who finished the OJHL regular season with its highest-ever points haul and progressed to the conference championships during playoffs for the first time. The team met for its end-of-season awards banquet April 17, recognizing those who played key roles in the Huskies first 40-win regular season. Team coach Ryan Ramsay and owner Paul Wilson thanked the players, Huskies volunteers, and Highlands community for cheering the team on every step of the way. "You made this season unforgettable, and we can't wait to see you in the fall," they said. *(Mike Baker).*

Top Left: Forward Nathan Poole, pictured with team owner Paul Wilson, was named Most Valuable Player after recording 81 points in 49 regular season games, chipping in with a further 12 points in 17 playoff tilts. Top Centre: Isaac Larmand scooped the Most Improved Player award having carved out a checking role with the Huskies this season. Pictured with head coach Ryan Ramsay. Top Right: Goaltender Tyler Hodges was named Best Playoff Performer after featuring in all 17 post-season games. The future Dartmouth NCAA netminder earned nine wins, a 2.12 goals against average, and .947 save percentage, and was presented with the award by Ramsay. Bottom Right: Co-captains Ty Petrou and Raine Nadeau closed the curtain on their Huskies careers after two full seasons in the Highlands, sharing the Hardest Workers award, presented by coach Jordan Bailey. Bottom Centre: Chase Del Colombo and Kaiden Thatcher shared the Rookie of the Year spoils, with both making big impressions during their first full season with the team. Pictured with coaches Owen Flood and Ramsay. Bottom Left: Camron Hankai earned Top Defenceman honours after putting up 51 points in 55 regular season games, and seven in 17 playoff games. He was also a finalist for the league's top blueliner award. Pictured with Wilson and Bailey. *Submitted.*

Home of the Highland Storm

Highland Storm U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another Storm season. The Storm U9MD started their season developing the team with half ice games. There was lots of learning in the first few months, but how much this team had grown wasn't evident until they took to full ice mid- January.

The strength in our centres, Kipton Cunningham and Sullivan Brind, was evident when we made this transition. Cunningham ended the season as one of the lead scorers in the league. Brind was a consistent opposing force with his breakaways.

Our wingers, Frances Gilmour, Dean DaLanca, Ander Brown, Felix Dart, Maddex Gaffney, Jackson Pelley, Gryphon Luck, Ryder Thibert, and Ryker Thibert spent the year learning positions, offside and how to move the puck up the ice efficiently and effectively. Every single one of our wingers were contributors and key to the team's strong year.

Shout out to Travis Hutchinson, Hudson Lunch, Keaton DeCarlo and Ben Gaffney. This defence team did an incredible job learning positions and minimizing opportunities in our defensive zone.

Last but not least, a huge shout out to Sawyer Willis who cannot only rap every word of Eminem without breaking a sweat, but was the core of the team, in every game.

U9MD ended the full ice season tied for second overall, winning nine of 14 games, three ties and only losing two games all full-ice season.

The coaches and bench staff thank the players. Thanks to the bench staff, Jay Cunningham, Jamie Luck, Rob Williams and Steve Pelley, Erin Fearrey and Cynthia Hutchinson for managing the team, and parents.

Myself, Jamie, Rob and Steve are honoured to have had the year to work with this team and look forward to watching them grow in the seasons ahead. *(Submitted by head coach Jay Cunningham).*

The Highland Storm U7 Blue GJ Burtch Construction

The Highland Storm U7 Blue GJ Burtch Construction team celebrated the end of a fantastic season with an end-of-year family skate and pizza party before their final game March 22. It was a great way to cap off a stellar seven months of hockey with a great group of kids.

Each player clearly grew and developed their skills thanks to the patience and dedication of a fantastic coaching staff. Head coach Matt and assistant coaches Jeremy, Brad and Stu brought out the best in each skater, emphasizing fun while strengthening skills to keep the kids engaged and motivated. The improvement in each player's skating, shooting, passing and hockey sense from the beginning of the season to now is remarkable.

The team dominated their competition all year, working hard and seeing their many hours of practice pay off. The season was highlighted by some amazing performances by goaltender Parker Neville, who showed really impressive concentration and commitment to protecting his net whether he saw 10 shots or 100 in a game.

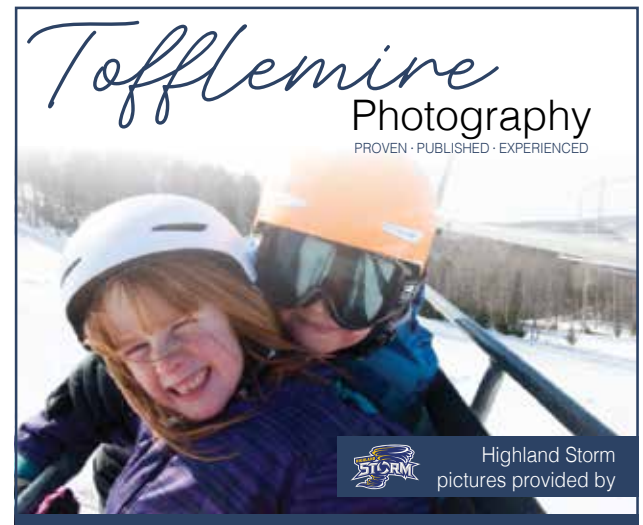
Another highlight was the seemingly endless goals from our forwards, who approached double-digit points in game after game, and our excellent defence who worked

hard to keep the puck out of our end and away from our goalie. The entire team worked so well together, showing dedication and determination in practices and games.

The coaching staff would like to thank the parents for their support helping their players bring their best on and off the ice. It's been a magnificent season of hockey - looking forward to 2025-2026. *(Submitted)*

U9LL Sharp Electric/Minden Pharmasave

This season had a lot of ups and downs. We didn't record our first win until the last game of the playoffs, where we went through three overtime periods and a shootout. The kids celebrated that win like we won the Stanley Cup. The coaching staff can't believe how much progress each kid has made, and their determination to improve themselves. Next season will be exciting to watch all these kids grow and develop into great players. The coaching staff couldn't be prouder of all the players. *(Submitted)*



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Highlander events

Singing her heart out

Juno-award winning artist Celeigh Cardinal lit up the stage at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton April 19. She and her band performed folk pieces for the soul to a sold-out crowd, with Cardinal sharing trials and tribulations from her life in between sets. Haliburtonian Jamie McGowan opened with a mini folk concert of his own before Cardinal arrived for the main event. The concert was held in partnership with the Haliburton County Folk Society.

Top Left, Bottom Left, Bottom Centre: Celeigh Cardinal travelled from Edmonton to wow the crowd at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Top Right: County-based performer Jamie McGowan showed off his strumming and singing skills as Saturday's opening act. Bottom Right: Barry Mason Jr. on guitar for Celeigh Cardinal during Saturday's concert in Haliburton. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Highlander events

Creativity on tap

Students at the Haliburton School of Art + Design pulled back the curtain for County residents April 17, offering a sneak peek behind the college's 'big red doors' for its semester-ending 'Look What We Made' exhibitors' showcase. The great hall was a sea of talented and creative makers with backgrounds in glassblowing, artist blacksmithing and ceramics – three of the 10 regular programs offered at the campus.

Top Left: Manchen Zhao shows off her incredible one-of-a-kind glass-blown purse. Top Right: Sydney Sutherland poses behind her sea of glass-blown aquatic creatures. Centre: Robin Poirierholds up her carefully-crafted ceramic skeleton. Middle Right: Lincoln Blair explains his vision for his metal work to a fan. Bottom Left: Michelle Jamieson chats with a visitor about her ornate ceramic vases and other pieces. Bottom Centre: Glassblower Nic Drover matches all his striking blue glassware. Bottom Right: Ewan Morreau presents his sparkling jewellery, with intricate bracelet designs. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo 5 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. April 28 Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are April 23 and 30 starting at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

HHHS social recreation April 24 at 10 a.m.

Wings and jam session April 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Seniors 55+ lunch April 25 at noon. Cost is $17 per person

Meat draw April 26 at 3 p.m.

EVENTS

Drop into any branch of the Haliburton County Public Library during April to vote for your favourite 'Forest of Reading' book and receive a fun button. There is still time to read more books, voting closes April 30. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca for more information.

April 24, 7:30 p.m. Community theatre troupe Ctrl-ART-Del is hosting Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Recommended for audiences 13 and up. Tickets available at concordtheatricals.com. There are other performances April 25 and 26.

April 26, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Kinmount Garden Club is running a 'Seedy Saturday' at the Kinmount Library, offering free seeds for vegetables, flowers and herbs for people to take home. There will be people available offering gardening advice, with plants and gardening books for sale by donation. Proceeds support programming at the Kinmount library. There will be kids crafts for children.

April 26, 6 p.m. Camp Medeba is hosting a 'Not-So-Silent Auction' at the camp located at 1270 Kennisis Lake Rd. Doors open at 6 p.m. with live bidding beginning at 7 p.m. Can't make it in person? Attend online via Zoom. RSVP at info@medeba.com.

April 29, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Join the community's new ukulele group at the Stanhope branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Bring your instrument and learn with us. No registration required. We meet every other Tuesday.

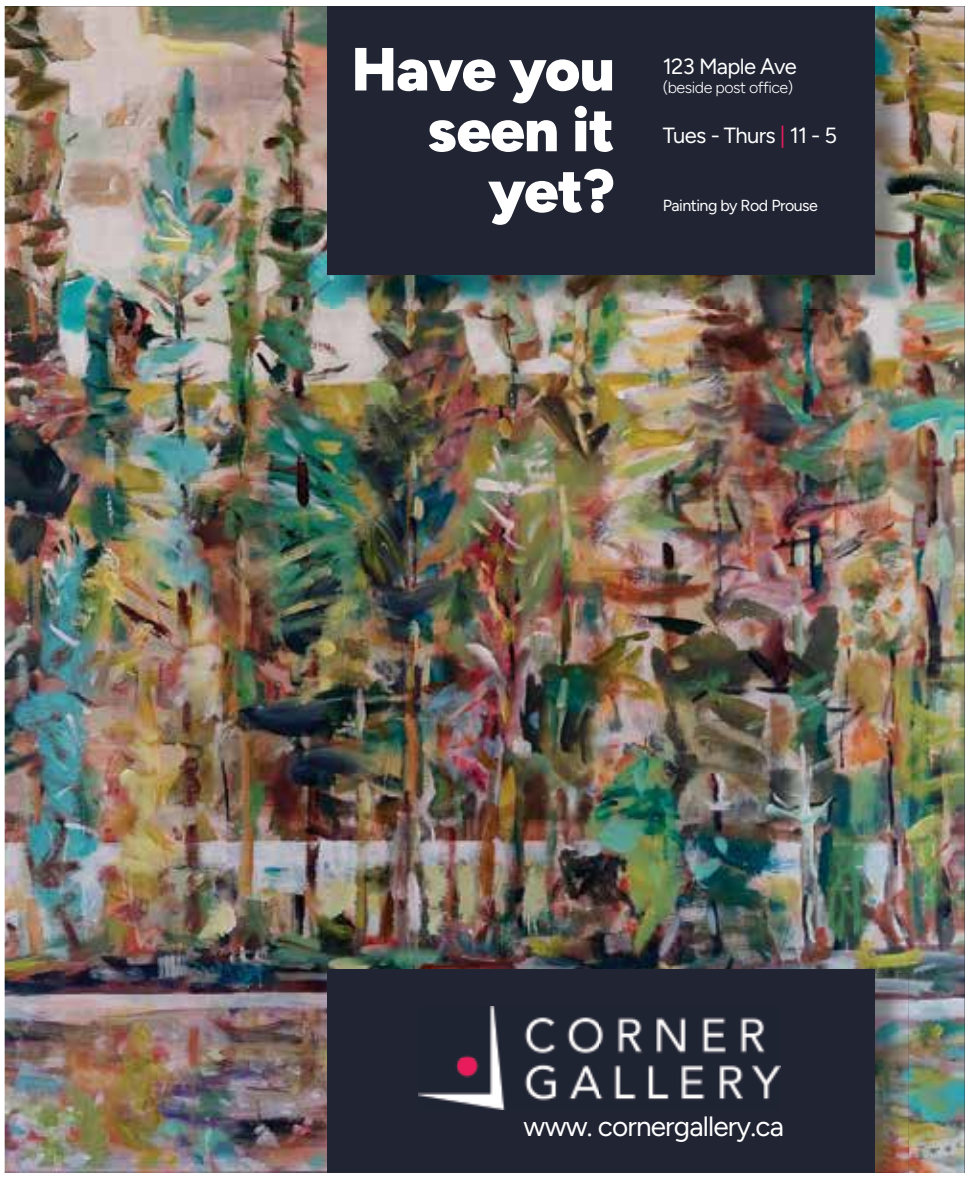
May 2, 6 p.m. The Wilberforce Agricultural Fair committee is hosting a 'Let's Play Bingo' evening at Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Cash prizes. Indulge in custom crafted beverages, sweet treats and popcorn at the snack bar. Must be 18 or older to play. Cash only. Games start at 7 p.m. Proceeds support the Youth Ambassador program.

May 6, 7 p.m. Do you love gardening? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre for a session with guest speaker Jon Faulkner, who will be discussing 'garden start-up and season extension'. Monthly society meeting to follow.

May 10, 10 a.m. the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust kicks off a new 'Discovery Days' season with a workshop on spring wildflowers and wild leeks at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Registration is required, admission by donation. Visit haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700 to reserve a spot.

May 10, 10 a.m. to noon. Minden Pride is hosting 'Vision 2025: The Future of Pride' event at Pinestone Resort. Learn about this year's Pride festival and help shape the future of the organization in Haliburton County. Refreshments available from 9:30 a.m.

May 10, 4:30 to 10 p.m. Minden Curling Club Spring Dance. Cost to attend the dinner and dance is $45 per person, or $25 for just the dance. Music by The Recycled Teenagers and Lloyd and Susanne Taylor. Tickets available at Let's Get Local and Molly's Market Bakery. This is a fundraiser for the curling club.



Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Board of Directors Opportunity

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, provides a broad range of services including mental health, child development, youth justice and the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

We are seeking members who are knowledgeable of the health sector, mental health, fundraising, and who have legal and facilities expertise.

Point in Time seeks, whenever possible, Board members who are representative of the following diversity standards: race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, record of offences, marital status, family status, disability, or consumer of services.

For more information, please visit our web site: https://www.pointintime.ca/opportunities/volunteers/

The Municipality of Dysart et al
is recruiting a
Municipal Treasurer

Due to an upcoming retirement, we are seeking applications from experienced and qualified candidates to fulfill the senior management position of Municipal Treasurer.

The complete detailed job description can be viewed through the Municipal website at: www.dysartetal.ca/careers

We offer a comprehensive benefit program and enrolment in the OMERS pension plan and a competitive salary grid from $122,866 to $143,760 per annum.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably via email, no later than 4:00 pm on Friday May 2, 2025, to the attention of the Human Resources Manager – Municipality of Dysart et al – hr@dysartetal.ca

P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodation for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

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Over the summer you will assist with planning and executing fundraising events, donor stewardship, data management and community engagement.

Interested applicants should forward resumes to **Melanie Klodt Wong**, HHHSF Executive Director at **foundation@hhhs.ca**
by 6pm Monday, May 5, 2025

Full job description available at www.hhhs.ca/about/careers

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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

CLEANING PERSON WANTED For 2-3 hours, Saturdays or Sundays during July and August.2 km. From Haliburton village. Inquiries contact v.daviskelly@gmail.com
WANTED – If you paint small rocks in the mandala art form (for a permanent outdoor setting), please call 705-457-0378.

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION- will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21.
For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

EVENT

EVENT - Norwood Country Jamboree - July 17-20. Tickets available at Wilson Tire & Battery, Lindsay or 1-800-954-9998

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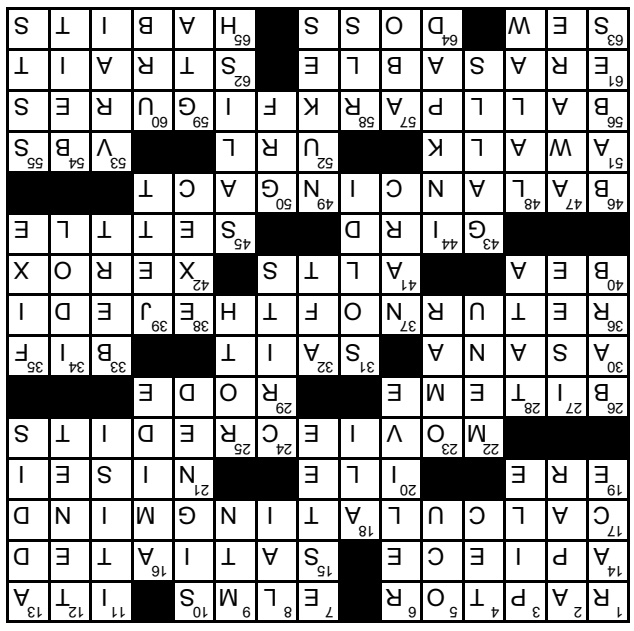
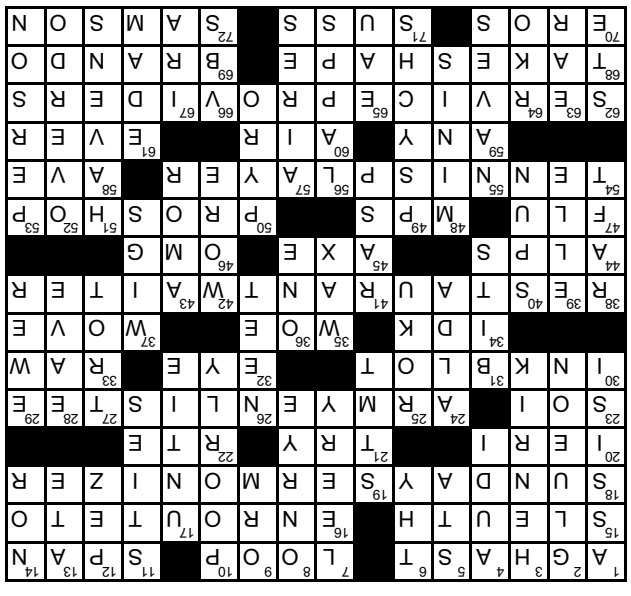
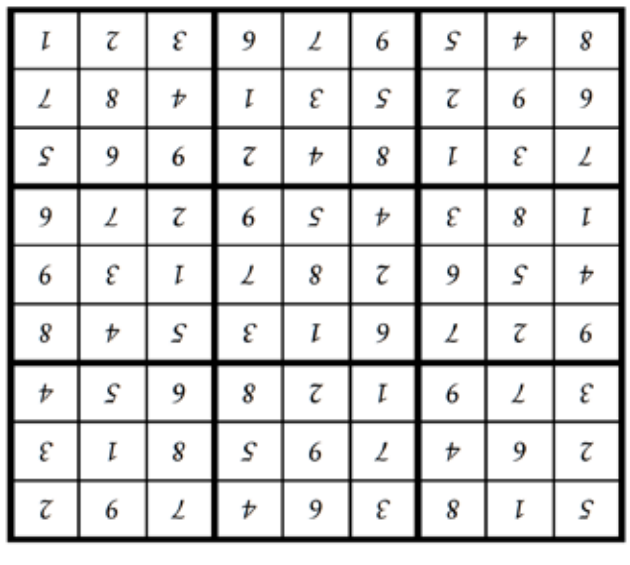
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Ellen Leslie King

(1949–2024)

Ellen died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on December 12, 2024. She was deeply loved by her husband Jim Burr, their shared children Sam, Mason, Ben and Marci, Matt and Catarina and grandchildren Carter, Nathan, Storii and Natalie. She will be forever missed by her sister Jude, her husband Glenn as well as Zeke, Jillian, Beau, Summer, Grace, Kevin and Arlo. It is impossible to summarize Ellen's life and the impact she had on the lives she touched. She lived in Haliburton County most of her adult life. She was an original Studio Tour artist, a respected mental health therapist, a reiki master, a meditation and spiritual teacher and a friend and support to so many people in the community. She loved Jim, her family and the life she and Jim created together.

She was kind, gentle, smart and intuitive. She fought hard to live as long as she could.

Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved her. Please join us on April 26, 2025 from 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm at the Minden Community Centre (upper level), 55 Parkside St., Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko to share memories and honour Ellen's life.

Memorial Donations to The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Thomas Macartney

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Thomas Macartney. He passed peacefully on April 14, 2015 surrounded by his loving family.

Thomas was predeceased by his wife Christine, and is survived by his daughter Anne Hamilton, (husband Gilbert), his son Thompson Macartney (wife Josie), Grandsons Thompson (wife Hannah, son Chase) and Danny Hamilton.

He loved his active life in Haliburton. The family wishes to thank the staff at Southlake Hospital and The Residences on Yonge for their compassionate care.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome

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In Loving Memory of

Ashley Summer Anderson

Passed away peacefully at the Hospice Peterborough on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the age of 26.

Dear loving mother of Amaya and Alexander, partner to Michael Manser, daughter of Vicky Anderson-Howitt (Glen), step-daughter of James Ketch. Loving sister to Cody Anderson and little sister Courtney Jones. Granddaughter of Carolyn (Namma) and the late Harris Steele (Poppa), great granddaughter of Rica Anderson (Oma). Niece to Aarica and Andrew and fondly remembered Talia, Landon, Rylan and by her family and friends.

Friends are invited to a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Ashley's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden KoM 2Ko on Friday, May 9, 2025 from 2:00 until 4:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue (by cheque only) or to the Hospice Peterborough would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory

INEZ "LYNN" GRAHAM

Lynn passed away peacefully in her 71st year with her family by her side on Saturday, April 19th, 2025 at the Niagara Health, Marotta Family Hospital.

Beloved sister to Cheryl (Joe) and Jeff (Robin). Cherished aunt to Tracy, Tammie, Tiffany, Brittney and great aunt to Alanna, Cody, Logan, Jena, Evan and Maci. Predeceased by her fur babies Abby, Mackie and Sparky as well as her parents Sylvia (Riel) and Grenville Graham.

Lynn was born and raised in Gooderham, ON and started her career at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School working as a secretary. She moved to the Niagara region and eventually settled in St. Catharines. Lynn was employed in provincial public service for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services in a career spanning 30 years. She ultimately worked as a Case Worker for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) until her retirement in 2015. Lynn was an exceptionally hard worker and in retirement she continued working for various women's clothing stores, most recently at the Fairview Mall.

Lynn lived life to the fullest and enjoyed time spent with her family, many friends and her fur babies. She was always the life of the party and could light up any dance floor with her love for live entertainment. Lynn left us with wonderful memories and she will always be remembered. A special thank-you to Lynn's close friend, Mike Rutka, for taking such good care of her and to all the staff at Niagara Health, Marotta Family Hospital for the exceptional care she received during her illness.

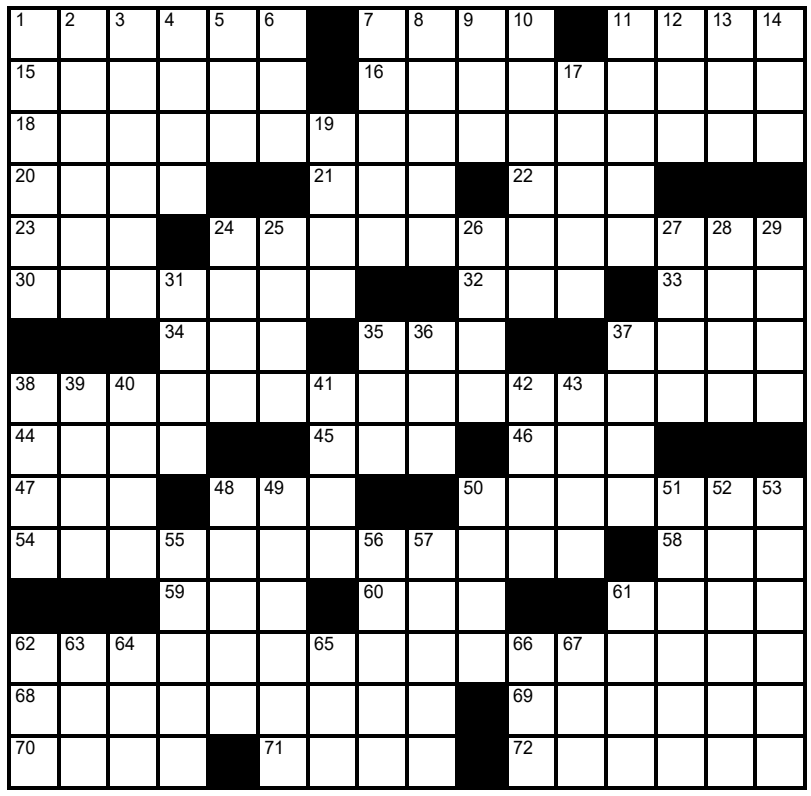
A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Niagara Health, Marotta Family Hospital Foundation or to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online guestbook: www.georgedartefuneralhome.com

Highlander puzzles

Think of It This Way

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

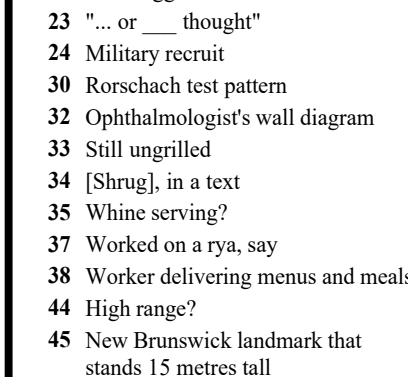


Across

1 Visibly horrified
7 Crochet hook target
11 Spick and ___
15 Stereotypical trench coat wearer
16 Heading for
18 Catholic Mass presenter, for one
20 Yesterday: Ital.
21 Hear in court
22 GPS suggestion: Abbr.
23 "... or ___ thought"
24 Military recruit
30 Rorschach test pattern
32 Ophthalmologist's wall diagram
33 Still ungrilled
34 [Shrug], in a text
35 Whine serving?
37 Worked on a rya, say
38 Worker delivering menus and meals
44 High range?
45 New Brunswick landmark that stands 15 metres tall
46 Texter's gasp
47 Winter illness
48 Question period mems.
50 Where drivers buy drivers
54 Venus or Serena Williams
58 Hail, in a hymn
59 No matter which
60 Lilting tune
61 At any time
62 Web access companies .... or, in a different sense, 18-, 24-, 38- and 54-Across, collectively
68 Begin to firm up
69 The fourth greatest male star, per Time magazine
70 Cupid's counterpart
71 Figure (out)
72 Whom Delilah betrayed

Down

1 St. Francis's birthplace
2 Attach to a model plane
3 Playwright Ibsen or hockey player Sedin
4 Carmaker with a four-ring logo
5 Railway stop: Abbr.
6 "Your" of yore
7 Gun shy, so to speak
8 How pastrami might be served
9 Agatha Christie's "N ___?"
10 Without skill
11 Hogs' homes
12 Flip-top candy dispenser
13 Got fed up?
14 "Neither" partner
17 Take out a granny?
19 Banking record: Abbr.
24 Swit's sitcom costar
25 Streaming company
26 Onetime hair removal brand
27 ___ out (put on display)
28 Bird nest shelter, maybe
29 Still life vessel
31 Drill inserts
35 Moustache application
36 Hockey goalies' number, often
37 Barristers' headwear
38 Swimming platform
39 Cosmo competitor
40 Performed a pirouette
41 Wood file
42 Tired (out)
43 ___ vincit omnia (love conquers all)
48 '60s skirt styles
49 Mentally unnerves, with "out"
50 Frequent torch bearer?
51 Refuges
52 Cook too well
53 ___, place or thing
55 Areas flanked by pews
56 Natives of northern Finland
57 Buenos ___
61 Cheese that's made backwards?
62 Blessed woman: Abbr.
63 Hearing site?
64 Movie studio pioneer
65 Water, in Waterloo
66 "Action" words: Abbr.
67 Writer Levin



Brandon Nimigon is jumping in a FREEZING LAKE and he needs your support!

DONATE TODAY!

Every donation, big or small, helps the 4C's Food Bank & Lily Ann Thrift Store support local programs and services that make a real difference. Let's show what community spirit can do!

Thank you in advance for your support — and wish me luck (and warmth) for the jump!

Donation link: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/go-jump-in-the-lake-2025/

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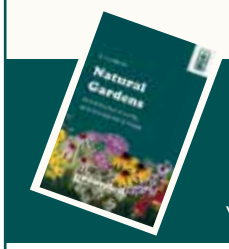

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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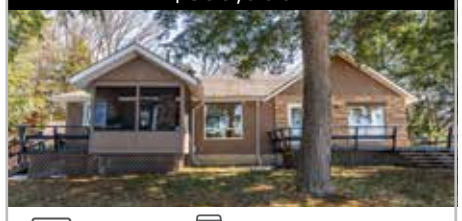
HALIBURTON LAKE
$925,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X12074153

TAIT LAKE, BANCROFT
$899,000

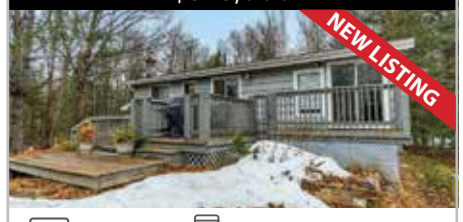


4X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X12071143

SILVER BEACH
$749,500

3X BED | 4X BATH | MLS X12071612

WILBERFORCE
$575,000



3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X

MINDEN
$419,000

2X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X12045690

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$595,000

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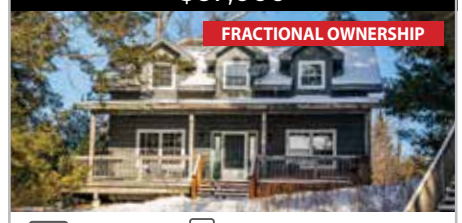

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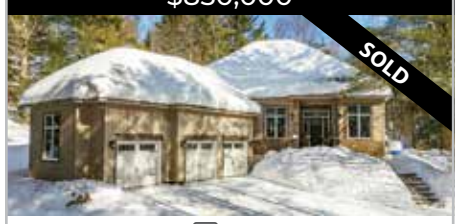
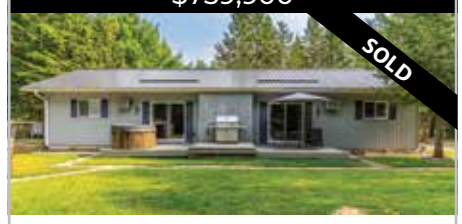


3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11990795

GELERT ROAD
$575,000

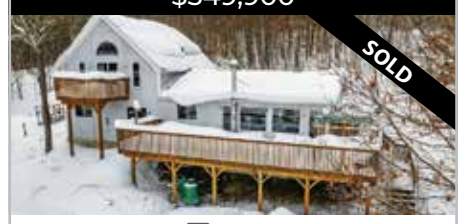
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X12009789

GULL RIVER
$759,900



5X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X10434162

KUSHOG LAKE
$549,900



3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS X11959957

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MLS X11985025
SOLD
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Lot 10 Broadleaf Road
MLS X11985027
SOLD
$50,000
1.77 Acres

Lot 11 Broadleaf Road
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